

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

January 2011 – Week 1

Air Date: January 2 – January 8 (Sunday – Saturday)



TITLE: TAMING THE BRAZOS

JANUARY 1870 AND TEXANS TAME THE WILD BRAZOS.

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY, BROUGHT TO YOU BY THIS STATION AND THE SAVE TEXAS HISTORY PROGRAM OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE.

JANUARY 7, 1870. WACO. CUTTING THROUGH THE HEART OF TEXAS, THE BRAZOS RIVER IS AN OBSTACLE TO A RAPIDLY GROWING STATE. FOR YEARS, ABOUT THE ONLY WAY TO CROSS IS A FERRY BOAT, AND THAT'S ONLY IN GOOD WEATHER.

SIX YEARS AGO, THE WACO BRIDGE COMPANY WAS FORMED TO BRIDGE THE RIVER AND PROMOTE THE TOWN. THEY HIRE JOHN ROEBLING OF NEW YORK TO BUILD A BRIDGE STRONG ENOUGH TO SUPPORT WAGONS AND CATTLE DRIVES.

TODAY, THE 475-FOOT LONG SUSPENSION BRIDGE OPENS WITH GREAT FANFARE, TRANSFORMING WACO AND OPENING THE WEST. ROEBLING LATER USED THE SAME METHOD TO BUILD THE BROOKLYN BRIDGE.

THE WACO SUSPENSION BRIDGE SPANNED THE MIGHTY BRAZOS 141 YEARS AGO, THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY.

LEARN MORE AT SAVETEXASHISTORY.ORG OR CALL 800-998-4GLO.

Kenneth E. Hendrickson, Jr., "BRAZOS RIVER," *Handbook of Texas Online*
(<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/rnb07>), accessed December 13, 2010.

Vivian Elizabeth Smyrl, "WACO SUSPENSION BRIDGE," *Handbook of Texas Online*
(<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/rtw01>), accessed December 11, 2010.

The Waco Suspension Bridge
<http://www.texasalmanac.com/history/highlights/waco/>

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